

REMARKS

Remaining Claims

Nine (9) claims (Claims 10 – 18) remain pending in this application.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 10 – 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith* (US 7,067,547).

Independent Claim 10, claims a solution comprising 1,3-bis[tris(hydroxymethyl)-methylamino] propane. Applicants point Examiner's attention to Claim 2 of *Smith*, wherein it is clear that, while *Smith* refers to this compound as "Bis-Tris Propane," it is not the same compound claimed by the present Applicants. The compound disclosed in *Smith* is 1,2-bis[tris(hydroxymethyl)-methylamino] propane. This is a significant chemical difference and there has been no showing by the Examiner that the disclosure of *Smith* (namely, 1,2-bis...) would lead one of skill in the art to the particular chemical claimed by the present Applicants (namely, 1,3-bis...), despite the fact that the chemical of *Smith* may be referred to therein by a similar name.

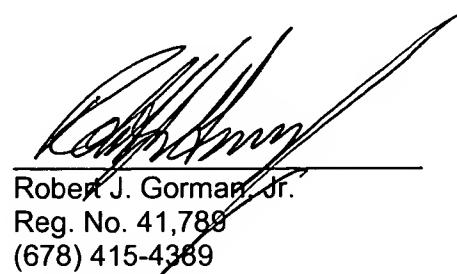
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now in conditions for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Robert Gorman, CIBA Vision, Patent Department, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,



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